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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 4 January 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 3 January 1996, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 3 January 1996 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention a recent statement by the Greek Cypriot Defence Minister, Mr. Costas Iliades, to the effect that the Greek Cypriot side would continue its military build-up and that they would not be intimidated by anyone in this regard. In the said statement, which was reported in the Greek Cypriot press on 30 December 1995, Mr. Iliades is reported to have said the following:

> "The rearmament of the National Guard is the result of a predetermined policy and we shall not accept being bullied by anyone ... With regard to the joint defence doctrine (between the Greek Cypriot administration and Greece), the efforts to implement all decisions are continuing".

This statement, apart from being defiant and provocative in nature, also carries with it serious political and other implications. It shows how propagandistic the Greek Cypriot side's demand for "demilitarization" is, and demonstrates the other side's continuing lack of political will to settle the Cyprus issue by peaceful means. This clearly does not augur well for the future of the negotiations or for peace and stability on the island.

I am sure that the international community will not fail to draw the necessary conclusions from this intransigent and provocative statement by a high-level Greek Cypriot official, at a time when efforts are continuing to revive the intercommunal talks.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus